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Search Dictionary:

Meaning of SPONGE

Pronunciation: spunj

WordNet Dictionary

- Definition:**
1. [n] primitive multicellular marine animal whose porous body is supported by a fibrous framework; usually occurs in sessile colonies
 2. [n] a follower who hangs around a host (without benefit to the host) in hope of gain or
 3. [n] a porous mass of interlacing fibers the forms the internal skeleton of various marine animals; also a porous rubber or cellulose product similarly used
 4. [v] gather sponges, in the ocean
 5. [v] wipe with a sponge, so as to clean or moisten
 6. [v] soak up with a sponge
 7. [v] erase with a sponge; as of words on a blackboard
 8. [v] ask for and get free; be a parasite

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Synonyms: bum, cadge, grub, leech, mooch, parasite, parazoan, poriferan, sponger

See Also: absorbent, absorbent material, collect, efface, erase, follower, freeloader, garner, gather, glass sponge, invertebrate, mop, mop up, obtain, pass over, phylum Porifera, Porifera, pull together, rub out, wipe, wipe off, wipe up

Webster's 1913 Dictionary**Definition:**

1. \Sponge\, n. [OF. esponge, F. ['e]ponge, L. spongia, Gr. ?, ?. Cf. {Fungus}, {Spunk}.] [Formerly written also {spunge}.]
 1. (Zo["o]l.) Any one of numerous species of Spongi[ae], or Porifera. See Illust. and Note under {Spongi[ae]}.
 2. The elastic fibrous skeleton of many species of horny Spongi[ae] (keratosa), used for many purposes, especially the varieties of the genus {Spongia}. The most valuable sponges are found in the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, and on the coasts of Florida and the West Indies.
 3. Fig.: One who lives upon others; a pertinacious and indolent dependent; a parasite; a sponger.
 4. Any spongelike substance. Specifically:
 - (a) Dough before it is kneaded and formed into loaves, and after it is converted into a light, spongy mass by the agency of the yeast or leaven.
 - (b) Iron from the puddling furnace, in a pasty condition.
 - (c) Iron ore, in masses, reduced but not melted or worked.
 5. (Gun.) A mop for cleaning the bore of a cannon after a discharge. It consists of a cylinder of wood, covered with sheepskin with the wool on, or cloth with a heavy looped nap, and having a handle, or staff.
 6. (Far.) The extremity, or point, of a horseshoe, answering to the heel.
- {Bath sponge}, any one of several varieties of coarse commercial sponges, especially {Spongia equina}.
- {Cup sponge}, a toilet sponge growing in a cup-shaped form.
- {Glass sponge}. See {Glass-sponge}, in the Vocabulary.
- {Glove sponge}, a variety of commercial sponge ({Spongia officinalis}, variety {tubulufera}), having very fine fibers, native of Florida, and the West Indies.
- {Grass sponge}, any one of several varieties of coarse commercial sponges having the surface irregularly tufted, as {Spongia graminea}, and {S. equina}, variety {cerebriformis}, of Florida and the West Indies.
- {Horse sponge}, a coarse commercial sponge, especially {Spongia equina}.
- {Platinum sponge}. (Chem.) See under {Platinum}.
- {Pyrotechnical sponge}, a substance made of mushrooms or fungi, which are boiled in water, dried, and beaten, then put in a strong lye prepared with saltpeter, and again dried in an oven. This makes the black match, or tinder, brought from Germany.
- {Sheep's-wool sponge}, a fine and durable commercial sponge ({Spongia equina}, variety {gossypina}) found in Florida and the West Indies. The surface is covered with larger

and smaller tufts, having the oscula between them.

{Sponge cake}, a kind of sweet cake which is light and spongy.

{Sponge lead}, or {Spongy lead} (Chem.), metallic lead brought to a spongy form by reduction of lead salts, or by compressing finely divided lead; -- used in secondary batteries and otherwise.

{Sponge tree} (Bot.), a tropical leguminous tree ({Acacia Farnesiana}), with deliciously fragrant flowers, which are used in perfumery.

{Toilet sponge}, a very fine and superior variety of Mediterranean sponge ({Spongia officinalis}, variety {Mediterranea}); -- called also {turkish sponge}.

{To set a sponge} (Cookery), to leaven a small mass of flour, to be used in leavening a larger quantity.

{To throw up the sponge}, to give up a contest; to acknowledge defeat; -- from a custom of the prize ring, the person employed to sponge a pugilist between rounds throwing his sponge in the air in token of defeat. [Cant or Slang] ``He was too brave a man to throw up the sponge to fate.''' --Lowell.

{Vegetable sponge}. (Bot.) See {Loof}.

{Velvet sponge}, a fine, soft commercial sponge ({Spongia equina}, variety {meandriniformis}) found in Florida and the West Indies.

{Vitreous sponge}. See {Glass-sponge}.

{Yellow sponge}, a common and valuable commercial sponge ({Spongia agaricina}, variety {corlosia}) found in Florida and the West Indies.

2. \Sponge\, v. t. [imp. & p. p. {Sponged}; p. pr. & vb. n. {Sponging}.]
 1. To cleanse or wipe with a sponge; as, to sponge a slate or a cannon; to wet with a sponge; as, to sponge cloth.
 2. To wipe out with a sponge, as letters or writing; to efface; to destroy all trace of. --Hooker.
 3. Fig.: To deprive of something by imposition. ``How came such multitudes of our nation . . . to be sponged of their plate and their money?'' --South.
 4. Fig.: To get by imposition or mean arts without cost; as, to sponge a breakfast. --Swift.
3. \Sponge\, v. i.
 1. To suck in, or imbile, as a sponge.
 2. Fig.: To gain by mean arts, by intrusion, or hanging on;

as, an idler sponges on his neighbor. --E. Eggleston.

The fly is an intruder, and a common smell-feast,
that sponges upon other people's trenchers.
--L'Estrange.

3. To be converted, as dough, into a light, spongy mass by the agency of yeast, or leaven.

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Computing Dictionary

Definition: A special case of a Unix filter that reads its entire input before writing any output; the canonical sort utility. Unlike most filters, a sponge can conveniently overwrite the input file with the output stream. If a file system has file versioning (as ITS did and VMS does now) the sponge/filter demonstrates its usefulness, because directing filter output would just write a new version.

See also slurp.

[Jargon File]

Websites:

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Dream Dictionary

Definition: Seeing or using a sponge in your dream, suggests that you easily absorb new knowledge and The dream may also be a metaphor indicating that you are "sponging off someone". You are b dependent and need to find your own path.

Websites:

Easton Bible Dictionary

Definition: occurs only in the narrative of the crucifixion (Matt. 27:48; Mark 15:36; John 19:29). It is ran zoophyte. It is found attached to rocks at the bottom of the sea.

Websites: